

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2082

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 0050

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ES, HO

SUBJECT: HONDURAS/EL SALVADOR MEETING

REF: STATE 001657

BEGIN SUMMARY: PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER BATRES TOLD POLOFF ON JANUARY 6 THAT THE NAMING OF ROBERTO PERDOMO PAREDES HAD SURPRISED HIM. HE REMARKD THAT HE WOULD SOON TALK WITH PERDOMO TO DETERMINE WHETHER PERDOMO SUPPORTS THE PRESENT NEGOTIATION EFFORT AND SAID HE WOULD RESIGN IF THEIR VIEWS ARE IN CONFLICT OR IF HE DOES NOT HAVE PERDOMO'S FULL SUPPORT. EX-FONMIN GALVEZ TOLD POLOFF THAT HE HAD BEEN REMOVED BECAUSE OF A SUCCESSFUL PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN DESIGNED TO PAINT HIM AS INFLEXIBLE AND UNABLE TO NEGOTIATE WITH EL SALVADOR. PERDOMO WILL PRESENT HIS VIEWS ON FOREIGN POLICY TO A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ON JANUARY 7, AND HIS COMMENTS TO THE COUNCIL AND TO BATRES WILL BE IMPORTANT IN DETERMINING WHETHER THE NEGOTIATIONS CAN OR WILL CONTINUE AS PLANNED. END SUMMARY.

1. POLOFF MET WITH PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER BATRES MORNING OF JANUARY 6. BATRES SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN SURPRISED BY APPOINTMENT OF ROBERTO PERDOMO PAREDES AS THE NEW  
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FONMIN, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE STATE OF NEGOTIATIONS

WITH EL SALVADOR. HE REMARKED THAT IF HE WERE FONMIN BORGONOVO THE CHANGE WOULD RAISE SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT POSSIBLE GOH MOTIVES. HE SAID THAT HE HAD MAINTAINED A LONG ASSOCIATION WITH EX-FONMIN GALVEZ AND THAT THEY THOUGHT ALIKE IN REGARD TO NEGOTIATIONS WITH EL SALVADOR. HE COMMENTED THAT HE HAD HAD SOME "PERSONALITY" PROBLEMS WITH PERDOMO IN THE PAST AND IS UNSURE WHAT RELATIONSHIP WILL EXIST BETWEEN THE TWO GIVEN THEIR RESPECTIVE ROLES.

2. BATRES SAID THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT PERDOMO'S EXACT VIEWS ARE IN REGARD TO THE PRESENT SERIES OF NEGOTIATIONS. HE REMARKED THAT CHIEF OF STATE MELGAR WAS ADAMANT IN CONTINUING THE NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT THE SUPERIOR DEFENSE COUNCIL HAD APPROVED THEIR INITIATION. HE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT PERDOMO HAD PUBLICLY STATED THAT THE DISPUTE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES SHOULD BE RESOLVED IN A SHORT TIME WITH A "GUARANTEED" SETTLEMENT. BATRES SAID THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT PERDOMO HAD IN MIND, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT HE SAW NO FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVE TO THE MEDIATION FORMULA THAT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH COUNTRIES. HE REMARKED THAT HE WOULD PUBLICLY OPPOSE ANY NEGOTIATION BY THE GOH WHICH DID NOT ADHERE TO THE LONG-STANDING HONDURAN POSITION OF A "GLOBAL AND SIMULTANEOUS SETTLEMENT." HE SAID THAT HE PLANNED TO TALK TO FONMIN PERDOMO TODAY OR TOMORROW TO REACH A MEETING OF MINDS ON THE HONDURAN NEGOTIATING STANCE AND REMARKED THAT HE WOULD NOT CONTINUE IN HIS CAPACITY AS NEGOTIATOR IF THEIR VIEWS ARE IN CONFLICT OR IF HE DOES NOT HAVE PERDOMO'S FULL SUPPORT.

3. HE SAID THE MEETING THAT HAD BEEN PLANNED FOR THIS WEEK IN MIMI HAS BEEN POSTPONED BECAUSE THERE WILL BE A RECEPTION FOR THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS ON JANUARY 9. HE COMMENTED THAT FONMIN PERDOMO HAD CALLED FONMIN BORGONOVO TO SEEK A POSTPONEMENT OF THE MEETING AND BORGONOVO HAD REPLIED THAT HE WOULD CALL BACK TO CONFIRM ANOTHER DATE. BATRES REMARKED THAT HE ASSUMED SUCH A MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE DURING THE WEEK OF JANUARY 12-18.

4. POLOFF TALKED TO BRIGADIER GENERAL CHINCHILLA, MINIS-CONFIDENTIAL

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OF DEFENSE, ON THE EVENING OF JANUARY 3. CHINCHILLA STATED THAT THE SUPERIOR DEFENSE COUNCIL (SDC) HAD DECIDED TO REMOVE GALVEZ AND SUBSTITUTE PERDOMO BECAUSE PERDOMO WAS MORE IN TUNE WITH THE NEW GENERATION OF LT. COLONELS. MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE LT. COLONELS OF THE SDC BELIEVED THAT PERDOMO WOULD BE MORE FLEXIBLE THAN GALVEZ IN DEALING WITH THE EL SALVADOR DISPUTE. EX-FONMIN GALVEZ TOLD POLOFF ON JANUARY 5 THAT HE HAD BEEN REMOVED BY THE

SDC BECUASE OF A "PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN" THAT HAD PAINTED HIM AS INFLEXIBLE AND A "DO NOTHING".

5. COMMENT: THE CHANGE OF FONMIN'S MAY AFFECT THE NATURE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, DEPENDING UPON THE VIEW FONMIN PERDOMO TAKES OF THE NEGOTIATION PROCESS WORKED OUT BY BATRES AND GALVEZ. AN ATTEMPT TO ALTER THE PROCESS OR THE MEDIATION FORMULA AT THIS STAGE COULD WELL PROVOKE THE RESIGNATION OF BATRES ON THE ONE HAND OR TRIGGER A SALVADORAN REJECTION OF NEGOTIATIONS ON THE OTHER. FONMIN PERDOMO HAS ALREADY MET WITH CHIEF OF STATE MELGAR TO DISCUSS FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS AND WILL PRESENT HIS VIEWS TO A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ON JANUARY 7. HIS COMMENTS TO THE CONCIL AND TO BATRES ABOUT THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE IMPORTANT IN DETERMINING WHETHER THEY CAN OR WILL CONTINUE AS PLANNED.  
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## Message Attributes

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